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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P60141PC00	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/NL 03/00667	International filing date (day/month/year) 29.09.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 27.09.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B29C44/12		
Applicant LANTOR B.V.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.
- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).
- These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
- I ☒ Basis of the opinion
 - II ☐ Priority
 - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
 - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 15.04.2004	Date of completion of this report 03.01.2005
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Van Wallene, A Telephone No. +31 70 340-3611 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/NL 03/00667**

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-21 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-25 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/10-10/10 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

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5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-25
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-25
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-25
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

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Re Item V

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: EP-A-1 010 793 (LANTOR BV) 21 June 2000 (2000-06-21)

1. The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1, and shows (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A core material, suitable for use in a closed mould system, spray up application and/or hand lay up application, said core material being drapable, which core material is based on at least one fibrous web containing a foam- structure within the web, said foam-structure being formed of a plurality of members, which members are separated from each other by channels that are permeable to resin,

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this known material in that the members have an average diameter - as defined by the diameter of the enveloping circle, in the plane of the material - of less than 1.5 mm and wherein the channels have an average diameter of less than 0.75 mm.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

2. The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as insufficient surface quality of a moulded object in which the prior art core material is used. The objective of the invention is therefore the improvement of surface quality while maintaining drapeability, resin permeability and compression strength. The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) since none of the prior art documents disclose nor fairly suggest the modification of the foam structure as defined in the characterising part of claim 1. The dimensions of the foam members solve the above defined problem while maintaining the other defined properties.

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3. Claims 2 to 18 are dependent on claim 1 and claims 19 to 23 define a manufacturing process using the core material of claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.
4. Claim 24 appears to lack the essential features for manufacturing the core mat of claim 1. These essential features are defined in claim 25, which should therefore have been incorporated in claim 24.
The combination of claims 24 and 25 defines a process for manufacturing the novel and inventive product of claim 1 and as such also meets the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.